

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): An image input/output control apparatus for performing input/output of image data, comprising:

a first image processing unit adapted to generate a plurality of first image data packets by converting image data inputted by an image input apparatus;

a second image processing unit adapted to perform image processing on the plurality of first image data packets generated by said first image processing unit to generate a plurality of second image data packets;

a third image processing unit adapted to generate image data based on either the plurality of first image data packets or the plurality of second image data packets and to output the generated image data to an image output apparatus;

a control unit adapted to control storing process for storing the plurality of first image data packets and the plurality of second image data packets to a storage apparatus and to control reading process for reading the plurality of first image data packets and the plurality of second image data packets from the storage apparatus; and

a data transfer unit adapted to connect said plural image processing units and said control unit ~~like a ring~~ in a ring-type formation and to perform data transfer between said plural

image processing units and said control unit unidirectionally, wherein

said data transfer unit transfers the first image data packet to said second image processing unit in a case where an identification information for identifying said second image processing unit is added to the first image data packet, transfers the first image data packet to said third image processing unit in a case where the identification information for identifying said third image processing unit is added to the first image data packet, and transfers the second image data packet to the third image processing unit in a case where the identification information for identifying said third image processing unit is added to the second image data packet.

Claim 2. (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control unit performs image processing setting for said plural image processing units through said data transfer unit, and one of said plural image processing units performs image processing on the basis of the image processing setting.

Claim 3. (canceled)

Claim 4. (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said control unit generates a command packet in which a header including the identification information is added to command data including image processing information to perform the image processing setting for said plural image processing units,

wherein said data transfer unit transfers the command packet to one of said plural image processing units corresponding to the identification information, and

one of said plural image processing units corresponding to the identification information performs the image processing setting based on the image processing information.

Claims 5 - 54. (canceled)

Claim 55. (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said second image processing unit performs resolution conversion process on the plurality of first image data packets.

Claim 56. (currently amended): An image input/output system for performing input/output of image data, comprising:

an image input/output apparatus;

an image input apparatus for inputting image data to said image input/output apparatus; and

an image output apparatus for outputting image data inputted by said image input/output apparatus,

wherein said image input/output apparatus further comprises:

a first image processing unit adapted to generate a plurality of first image data packets by converting image data inputted by an image input apparatus;

a second image processing unit adapted to perform image processing on the plurality of first image data packets generated by said first image processing unit to generate a plurality of second image data packets;

a third image processing unit adapted to generate image data based on either the plurality of first image data packets or the plurality of second image data packets and to output the generated image data to an image output apparatus;

a control unit adapted to control storing process for storing the plurality of first image data packets and the plurality of second image data packets to a storage apparatus and to control reading process for reading the plurality of first image data packets and the plurality of second image data packets from the storage apparatus; and

a data transfer unit adapted to connect said plural image processing units and said control unit ~~like a ring~~ in a ring-type formation and to perform data transfer between said plural image processing units and said control unit unidirectionally, wherein

said data transfer unit transfers the first image data packet to said second image processing unit in a case where an identification information for identifying said second image processing unit is added to the first image data packet, transfers the first image data packet to said third image processing unit in a case where the identification information for identifying said third image processing unit is added to the first image data packet, and transfers the second image data packet to the third image processing unit in a case where the identification information for identifying said third image processing unit is added to the second image data packet.

Claim 57. (previously presented): A system according to Claim 56, wherein said control unit performs image processing setting for said plural image processing units through said data transfer unit, and one of said plural image processing units performs image processing on the basis of the image processing setting.

Claim 58. (previously presented): A system according to Claim 57, wherein said control unit generates a command packet in which a header including the identification information is added to command data including image processing information to perform the image processing setting for said plural image processing units,

wherein said data transfer unit transfers the command packet to one of said plural image processing units corresponding to the identification information, and

wherein one of said plural image processing units corresponding to the identification information performs the image processing setting based on the image processing information.

Claim 59. (previously presented): A system according to Claim 56, wherein said second image processing unit performs resolution conversion process on the first plurality of image data packets.